



OUR MOTTO.—THE SAINTS' SINGULARITY—IS UNITY, LIBERTY, CHARITY.

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GREAT COUNCIL OF THE SENECAS.

We find in the Buffalo Commercial Advertiser a report of the proceedings of a Council of the Seneca Nation, held at Cattaraugus Creek Reservation on the 15th and 16th of July. It was called by the Committee of the Society of Friends, who for years past have been robustly assisting these people. The Council was attended by a considerable number of the chiefs and people, both men and women, from Buffalo and Cattaraugus and by a delegation from the Allegheny Reservation. It was opened on Tuesday the 15th of July, and Daniel T. Gans appointed Chairman. There were no Tawandawas present. After some preliminary remarks by several of the Chiefs, and also by the Committee, among whom were several women Friends, a number of the Committee addressed the Council at length, explaining the motives of the Friends in calling them together. From this address we present a brief extract which will sufficiently indicate its spirit and purpose:

"A wise system of municipal Government, adapted to your necessities has been provided for you, and you have now only to avail yourselves of these important advantages and judiciously exercise the powers that have been conferred upon you—be sober and industrious, change your system as regards the employment of your females, and elevate them by a suitable education and treatment to the position they ought to occupy, and your prosperity will then be placed upon a firm and permanent basis.

"One of the principal objects of our present visit is, to endeavor to impress upon you the importance of these measures, and above all, the absolute necessity of your adopting a different course from what you have heretofore pursued, in regard to the division of labor among you, and we tell you plainly, that it is our settled opinion, unless you consent to this, all our labors to benefit you will be in vain.

"We hope you will listen to the advice we have given you—that your men will settle themselves permanently at the homes which cannot be taken from them, and that they will diligently apply themselves to the cultivation and improvement of their farms—that you will withdraw your females from the labor of the field and other employments not adapted to the delicacy of their sex; that you will give them suitable education, leave them to be occupied in the care and business of their household affairs, and place them in a condition to become your prudent advisers and useful companions. You will then find them wise counsellors and true friends.

"As we have heretofore told you, our object in uniting our efforts was, to secure for you a home that could not, without your consent be taken from you. That has been done, as effectually, under all circumstances, as could be expected; this purpose effected, we might now be justified in withdrawing, and leave you to walk alone; but upon considering your situation, it has appeared to us that you still stand in need of some help, not as regards the cultivation of your land, because this you already understand and can readily do, if you are disposed to be industrious, but there is one way in which we believe you require assistance, and in which we can yet do you some good, and that is, by aiding you in the education of your children, and the instruction of your females in the employments in which we believe they should hereafter be engaged. If you approve of these measures and it be your wish we should in this manner assist you, we are disposed to continue our efforts to do so, by continuing the school amongst you, where as many of your children as you may be inclined to send, may be taught to read and write, and also be instructed in such higher branches of learning as circumstances may admit of.

"In addition to this, we propose to secure into the family of a friend we may place to reside among you, as many of your young women as can be accommodated, and there instruct them in all the branches of female employments, which will be necessary to enable them to become good housekeepers, and suitable companions of intelligent, industrious husbands, and qualify them to train up their children in habits and principles which will render them respectable, good citizens."

After a short pause, Young Chief, a distinguished Sachem of the Cattaraugus Reservation, rose and expressed thanks to the Great Spirit that so many of the Committee of Friends had been permitted to meet in Council. Upon his taking his seat, William Patterson, a Chief, delegated by the Allegheny Chiefs, to attend the Council, rose and said:

"Brothers!—When the notice of the call of the present Council reached Allegheny, we (meaning, we presume, himself and the other Allegheny Chiefs in attendance) were delighted to attend it. Having heard the communication made yesterday, by our friends, we think we understand it and also the object of your visit.

"On listening to the remarks made by the Committee of Friends, we find nothing in them, but what we approve, nor any advice which, if adopted, would not redound to the great happiness of the Indians. When we look round on the situation of our white neighbors, we desire to enjoy the blessings which they do so amply possess; but we have not yet been able to obtain them. We feel thankful to our friends for the counsel they have given us, and we believe if our people will take the advice of the Committee, they will find it to their good. We earnestly desire that our friends may continue their care over us, and that they may not be discouraged, if they do not find us improve as fast as they desire."

The Friends of Philadelphia will testify that the Indians at Allegheny have made some progress in improvement. It was once thought it was a sin against the Great Spirit to send children to school. It is not so now. Many who formerly entertained that opinion, now send their children to school. We have at this time on the Allegheny reservation five schools. The Friends have often told us that they believed it was the will of the Great Spirit they should assist the Indians. If that be their opinion, they need never be discouraged."

From the addresses, delivered in behalf of the Seneca Nation, after full and deliberate consideration, we presume it may be inferred that it is their determination hereafter to follow the excellent advice given to them by their old and tried friends, the Quakers.

After the business for which the Council was called was concluded, a consultation in the Indian language was held among the Chiefs. After some time spent in discussion a Chief rose and addressed the assembly in a short speech, which being interpreted, was nearly as follows:

"Brothers!—In the course of human events it sometimes happens that nations distinctly situated become bound together by the ties of friendship. This is the second session of the present Council between the Seneca Nation and the Society of Friends. To our nation the subjects of deliberation have been very important. Among them there is one of much interest to us, which it is my duty to open to this Council. In order to express the high regard we entertain for the friendship so long existing between the Friends and the Seneca Indians, we have solemnly concluded to adopt into our nation one of your numbers, and for that purpose have selected our venerable friend, Philip E. Thomas. According to the ancient custom of our tribe, we, by this act, express our grateful sense of our obligation to friends, and make fast the chain which has so long bound us together."

The Chief then rising from his seat, and approaching P. E. Thomas, who was sitting at the Council table, took him by the arm and raised him on his feet. After three times laying his hand on his shoulder, he made an oration in the Indian language, which being afterward explained, was to the following purpose:

"By this ceremony we do, at this time, adopt into the Seneca Nation, this our friend Philip E. Thomas; by which he becomes a member of the tribe, and a brother of the Seneca clan—and is entitled to all the rights and immunities of the nation. We now give him the name of Sagouan, by which we express our sense of his character, and under which he will hereafter be recognized among us—and we have appointed George Deer to be his cousin."

This ceremony of initiation being performed and the Chief who officiated having returned to his place, Mr. Thomas addressed the Council as follows:

"My Friends and Brothers: I receive with great sensibility the evidence you have just afforded me of your regard and confidence. It is true I have always been disposed to render you every service in my power. Having now by your kindness become one of your nation, I feel myself more closely identified with you, and shall take a lively interest in your affairs, and at all times will be ready to co-operate in whatever measures may be calculated to promote the prosperity and happiness of the Senecas."

Upon the conclusion of this ceremony, the Council fire was covered up, and the Council adjourned.

"Sagouan, it is said, means the boxer of the mountains where he crossed

the river, and perhaps may be best expressed in English by the word *bountiful*. The individual on whom it has been conferred, is Philip E. Thomas of this city—a man long since honored at home, as first president of the Baltimore & Ohio R. R. Co., and who is every way deserving this not often made mark of distinction. His labors and expenditures in behalf of the deeply wronged Indian, have indeed been 'benevolent' and 'bountiful.'
Ed. Balt. Sat. Vis.

CAPT. FREMONT ON THE HIGHEST PEAK OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS.

The following extract from Capt. Fremont's Journey to the Rocky Mountains, is most spiritedly written. Having determined to ascend the highest peak of the Rocky Mountains, Captain F., with a few of his men, proceeded with their mules as far as these naturally climbing animals could keep their footing. They then abandoned them in a cool green valley, closed on all sides by walls of rocks, and proceeded on foot, and with hands to scale these walls; at how much cost of effort and exposure this extract we annex will tell:

Having divested ourselves of every unnecessary encumbrance, we commenced the ascent. This time, like experienced travellers, we did not press ourselves, but climbed leisurely, sitting down as soon as we found breath beginning to fail. At intervals we reached places where a number of springs gushed from the rocks, and about 1,500 feet above the lake, came to the snow line. From this point our progress was uninterrupted climbing. Hitherto I had worn a pair of thick moccasins, with soles of parched corn, but I put on a thin light pair, which I had bought for the purpose, as now the use of our toes became necessary to a further advance. I availed myself of a sort of comb of the mountain, which stood against the wall like a buttress, and which the wind and the solar radiation joined to the steepness of the smooth rock, kept almost entirely free from snow. Up this I made my way rapidly. Our cautious method of advancing in the outset had spared my strength; and, with the exception of a slight disposition to headache, I felt no remains of yesterday's illness. In a few minutes we reached a point where the buttress was overhanging, and there was no other way of surmounting the difficulty than by passing around one side of it, which was the face of a vertical precipice of several hundred feet.

Putting hands and feet in the crevices between the blocks, I succeeded in getting over it, and when I reached the top, found my companions in a small valley below. Descending to them, we continued climbing, and in a short time reached the crest. I sprang upon the summit, and another step would have precipitated me into an immense snow field five hundred feet below. To the edge of this field was a sheer icy precipice; and then with a gradual fall, the field sloped off for about a mile, until it struck the foot of another lower ridge. I stood on a narrow crest about three feet in width, with an inclination of about 20 deg. east. As soon as I had gratified the first feelings of curiosity, I descended, and each man ascended in his turn; for I would allow only one at a time to mount the unstable and precarious slab, which it seemed as if a breath would hurl into the abyss below. We mounted the barometer in the snow of the summit, and fixing a ramrod in a crevice, unfurled the national flag to wave in the breeze where never flag waved before. During our morning's ascent, we had met no sign of animal life, except the small sparrow like bird already mentioned. A stillness the most profound, and a terrible solitude forced themselves constantly on the mind as the features of the place.

Here, on the summit, where the stillness was absolute, unbroken by any sound, and the solitude complete, we thought ourselves beyond the region of animated life; but while we were sitting on the rock, a solitary bee (bromus, the humble bee) came winging its flight from the eastern valley, and lit on the knee of one of the men. It was a strange place, the icy rock, and the highest peak of the Rocky Mountains, for a lover of warm sunshine and flowers; and we pleased ourselves with the idea that he was the first of his species to cross the mountain barrier—a solitary pioneer to foretell the advent of civilization. I believe that a woman's thought would have made us feel in continuous his way unharmed; but we carried out the law of this country, where all animated nature seems at war; and seizing him immediately, put him in a vast fit place—in the leaves of a large oak, among the flowers we had collected on our way. The barometer stood at 29.293, the attached thermometer at 44 deg. F., giving for the elevation of this summit 13,570 feet above the Gulf of Mexico, which may be called the highest flight of the bee. It is certainly the highest known flight of that insect.

From the description given by Mackenzie of the mountains where he crossed

them, with that of a French officer still further to the north, and Col. Long's measurements to the south, joined to the opinion of the oldest traders of the country, it is presumed that this is the highest peak of the Rocky Mountains. The day was sunny and bright, but a slight shining mist hung over the lower plains, which interfused with our view of the surrounding country. On one side we overlooked innumerable lakes and streams, the spring of the Colorado of the Gulf of California, and on the other was the Wind river valley, where were the heads of the Yellowstone branch of the Missouri; far to the north, we could just discover the snows of the Trois Tetons, where the sources of the Missouri and Columbia rivers, and at the southern extremity of the ridge, the peaks were plainly visible, among which were some of the springs of the Nebraska or Platte river. Around us, the whole scene had one main striking feature, which was that of terrible convulsion. Parallel to its length, the ridge was split into chasms and fissures between which rose the thin lofty walls, terminated with slender minarets and columns, which is correctly represented in the view from the camp on Island Lake.

According to the barometer, the little crest of the wall on which we stood was three thousand five hundred and eighty feet above that place, and two thousand seven hundred and eighty above the little lakes at the bottom, immediately at our feet.

Our camp at the Two Hills (an astronomical station) bore south 3 deg. east, which, with a bearing afterwards obtained from a fixed position, enabled us to locate the peak. The bearing of the Trois Tetons was north 50 deg. west, and the direction of the central ridge of the Wind river mountains south 39 deg. east. The summit rock was gneiss, succeeded by scientific gneiss. Sienite and felspar succeeded in our descent to the snow line, where we found a felsparic granite. I had remarked that the noise produced by the explosion of our pistols, had the usual degree of loudness, but was not in the least prolonged, expiring almost instantaneously. Having now made what observations our means afforded, we proceeded to descend. We had accomplished an object of laudable ambition, and beyond the strict order of our instructions. We had climbed the loftiest peak of the Rocky Mountains, and looked down upon the snow a thousand feet below, and standing where never human foot had stood before, felt the exultation of first explorers. It was about two o'clock when we left the summit; and when we reached the bottom, the sun had already sunk behind the wall, and the day was drawing to a close. It would have been pleasant to have lingered here and on the summit longer; but we hurried away as rapidly as the ground would permit, for it was an object to regain our party as soon as possible, not knowing what accident the next hour might bring forth.

A DESCRIPTION OF CALIFORNIA.

The soil is extremely varied, not only in the two sections, but also in the different portions of each section; the hills and valleys are extremely fertile. The soil of the valleys is vastly rich and productive, so much so in fact, that I think I venture nothing when I say, that I think it is not surpassed but that it is not even equaled. The deep, rich alluvial soil of the Nile in Egypt, does not afford a parallel. Remarks like these I am aware, are apt to be considered as mere gratuitous assumptions; but to ascertain how far they are sustained by fact, the reader is referred to the sequel, especially that part of it, which treats of productions, which is believed will not only convince him of their truth, but may, perhaps induce him to indulge in assumptions and speculations even more enlarged. The soil of the various valleys of the western section, varies from a rich alluvial to a deep black, vegetable loam, upon a strata of sand, gravel, clay or trap rock. That of the plains, is principally a deep, brown, vegetable loam, or decomposed basalt, with a sub-stratum of stiff clay, or gravel and sand. And that of the hills is chiefly brown, sandy loam or loose, gravelly soil. The mountains, and most of the more elevated hills are generally entirely barren, and consist principally of primitive rocks, such as talcon slate, and other argillaceous stone, with hornblende and granite. The less elevated hills consist chiefly of basalt, slate and marble. Gypsum and a kind of white clay are also found in many places; the latter of which is very abundant and which is used extensively by the inhabitants, for the purpose of white washing their dwelling houses both externally and internally. It is also used for the purpose of cleansing, it is also used as a substitute for soap, and for this purpose, it is found to be admirably adapted. It may be estimated that about two-thirds of all the Western section, are cultivatable lands, and three-fourths of it, including the arable lands are pasture lands, to each of which purposes the whole section, is the best suited, and in proportion stated, is peculiarly suited. The remaining part of this section which is

the extremely mountainous portion, is not fitted for its extraordinary barrenness and sterility. The soil of the valley's of the Eastern section, is in all respects similar to that of the valley's of the Western section, that of the plains is a deep brown loam, with a subsoil of sand or clay, and that of the hills is usually a light, brown, vegetable earth, having a sub-stratum of gravel, sand or clay. The mountains and hills, like those of the Western section, are for the most part entirely sterile, yet as before remarked, there are portions of the hills and mountains even, that are tolerably productive. There is a much greater variety of soil in this than in the Western section; in one day's ride, you may pass over every variety of soil, from the most fertile to the most barren and unproductive. The mountains are generally composed of Talcon slate, granite, and other primitive rock, and the hills are principally composed of marble, limestone, basalt and slate. The white clay before spoken of is also found in this section, in great abundance. The proportion of barren land, is greater in this, than in the Western section, as nearly as I could ascertain, about one-third of the section is susceptible of cultivation; while about two-thirds including the arable lands, are well suited to the grazing purposes; and the remaining third for extraordinary unfruitfulness, and entire destitution of all fertility can be surpassed, only by some portions of Oregon, which are seldom if ever surpassed in worthlessness.

Preparations of War.—Movements of Troops, &c.—The Baltimore Sun of the 17th inst. says: The Government is evidently making the most vigorous preparations for any contingency that may arise out of our difficulties with Mexico. Major Ringgold's company of Flying Artillery will sail this evening or tomorrow, in the ship Herman, which is now loading on the Point, in addition to which we find the following evidence of further movements in our exchanges:

The New York Tribune of the 14th inst. says that orders have been received at that port for the Navy Agent to lay in large quantity of stores for a southern climate, and that vessels of light draught are in request for the transportation of troops.

The ship Kalamazoo sailed from New York on the 15th inst., for Texas, with United States Government troops on board.

A letter to the editor of the Norfolk Herald, dated at Pensacola, on the 28th ult., says: "The United States ship Palmouth sailed on the 25th ult. for Mexico, Saratoga and United States brig Lawrence are now under weigh for the coast of Texas and Mexico. The Somers remains until further orders."

The Philadelphia Ledger of the 16th inst. says:

"It was rumored yesterday that the authority of the United States contemplated, in case of a war with Mexico, to make drafts upon the volunteers of our city and country to man the forts on the Delaware, in place of the regulars, who are to be drawn off to Mexico. The Pea Patch will, it is said, be put in repair, and the different companies be drawn in succession to perform regular tours of duty at that place and Fort Mifflin."

The Norfolk Beacon of the 16th inst. says:

"We understand that orders came to hand here yesterday to fit out the United States frigate Congress, immediately. Also, that orders have been given to ship seamen and ordinary seamen specially for her."

A Wedding in the Wilderness.—An Oregon emigrant writes the Kalinda Venture, from the company's camp, "Fish creek," away West somewhere, that on the 20th ult. the dulness of their tramp was enlivened with a marriage ceremony. The writer says: "Now you need not stare, yes, a wedding here beyond where dwellings, laws, or licenses are to be found, or any of the various 'fixens' which such an occasion generally calls forth in your country. The lucky couple are Mr. Meek, our pilot, and a Miss Shoonover, an emigrant. They had three or four days' acquaintance, during which they concluded upon getting up this novelty. The ceremony was done up by a preacher who is in company. When the four arrived, the trumpet was sounded and we all left our vocations, and gathered around our loving ones, in front of the camp fire. We wore a strong looking assembly—standing around with hats on, long beards, dirty shirts, bare and there rent breeches,

deer-skin moccasins, belts, pouches, &c., to witness for the first time the knot tied in the wilderness. Well, soon the ceremony was over, and each one went about his own business.

Anti-Rentism in Steuben.—The Janandaigua Repository of Wednesday says, that a "process" for the recovery of rent against a tenant of the Pultney Estate, in the town of Prattsburgh, was resisted successfully by men in disguise. It is singular how men in different counties are coming to the same conclusion in regard to this eternal tribute for the use of the soil. Our politicians must, before long, lay aside their squabbles about office, and the Tariff, and Texas, and investigate this land business. If every man has a natural right to land enough to live upon, our men in office are guilty of a shameful neglect in not taking steps to protect that right. It is their legitimate business.

Niagara Falls, August 1.—The Bodies in the Whirlpool.—The Whirlpool, near Niagara Falls, has of late become a receptacle of dead bodies. In addition to the human bodies noticed on the 29th ult., (which still remain in the grasp of its "agitated waters," are added the bodies of two horses and a hog. These may be seen from the bank above, passing around a "funeral circuit" of a mile or more in circumference—each succeeding circuit drawing them nearer the vortex of the Whirlpool, until each in their turn, become submerged beneath the boiling element—again thrown with violence from its angry embrace, to repeat its former evolutions. The sight of human bodies in the whirlpool is solemn and terrific—the blue waters seem to hold their prey in defiance of human effort to dispossess them—until satisfied with revelling with the dead, it emits them through its narrow outlet into the rapids below to be entombed in Lake Ontario.

1799 Devils in One Woman!—A journal of Madrid announces that the curate of the *Ministrat de Caldes* in exorcising a woman said to be possessed of a legion of demons, has succeeded in driving from the body of the unfortunate one the trifling number of 1799 devils, small and great. Doubtless, unfortunately, another demon remains behind who, more expert than his associates in the infernal art, obstinately resisted all the attacks of the worthy curate who on every festival day re-commenced his mysterious warfare upon this member of the satanic family in presence of a fanatic and affrighted crowd. The civic and ecclesiastical authorities at length interfered and put an end to the comedy.

The Coinage.—We are indebted to the Treasury Department for the following abstract of the total amount of coinage at the mint and branch mints for the month of July, viz:

In eagles, \$55,000; in half-eagles, \$131,000; in quarter-eagles, \$5,737 50; to all in gold, \$191,737 50. In half-dollars, \$71,000; in quarter dollars, \$15,000; in dimes, \$129,000; in half-dimes, \$19,000; total in silver, \$264,000. In cents, \$3,343 67. Total value of the coinage of the month of July last, \$459,081 17. The number of pieces of gold coined, 34,015. Total number of pieces of silver, 2,472,000. Total number of cents coined, 334,367. Total number of pieces coined, 2,540,382.—*Wash. Union.*

A Parrot Story.—We have from a reliable source the following illustration of parrot cunning. A certain wild parrot undertook to amuse himself by a walk in the garden. A certain hungry cat espied him, crept softly behind him; followed him, and as he quickened his step he cast frequent glances behind to watch her movements, and as he saw the cat following him he thus soliloquized: "I believe the beast will catch me, on my life I believe the creature will have me." The cat at length crept close to a spring, when the parrot, musing for all his courage, faced suddenly about, and shouted at the top of his voice—"scat you beast—scat you beast!" and away went poor in the greatest consternation, leaving poor to finish his stroll unmolested.—*West. Union.*

Across Conn. July 24. *Morris, Greely & Webb.*—*The Blade.* I sat down to write you that a man-horned murder was committed in the western part of this town on Tuesday last, between the hours of 8 and 4 P. M. A man by the name of Orris Woodford, of good standing in society, and in good circumstances, murdered his wife with an axe, &c. &c.—*M. F. T. Tribune.*

